

CITY OF TEMPE COMMISSION ON DISABILITY CONCERNS DATE 10-28-99
MINUTES

9/21/99

Commission Members Present: Rich Nolan, Robert Barber, Bernadette Croy, Manuel Delci, Laura Delci, Kathleen Green, John Horne III, Michael Lins, Jack Lofgren Carol Payant Jody Sharpe Sally Stewart Karen Walters

Commission Members Absent/Excused: David Coshow

Other Commission Members Absent: Howard Bell

Guests & Staff: Deborah Margraf, Automotive Trade Organization; Diane Kundrat, City of Tempe Liaison, Steve Wise, Tempe Community Council staff

Rich Nolan, Chair, called the meeting to order at Escalante Senior Center. Minutes of the 7/20/99 Commission meeting were approved. Apology was offered for members not receiving notice and agenda in advance for the meeting due to uncertain mailing problems. However, the notice and agenda were posted in advance at City Hall, satisfying Open Meeting law requirements.

Rich Nolan introduced the speaker, Deborah Margraf, Director of the AZ Automotive Trade Organization . She distributed and reviewed a summary of information regarding assistance to people with disabilities at gas stations (see attached). The information includes summary of current legal requirements for such services and results of her polling of major oil companies on their policies for assistance. Also included is a list of Tempe service stations that can offer assistance. Not all companies responded to her poll. The California law requires assistance when there are two clerks (at least one not attached to food sales) and posting of such requirement when there are two attendants. There was an attempt two years ago to enact a similar statute in Arizona without success. Both Wal-Mart at Albertson's will soon sell gas, it was suggested they be contacted to insure service provision. Rich Nolan related his experience of not being able to reach the self-serve dispenser from his chair, either the dispenser needs to be lowered or a person provided to help. There is a trend toward stations with no personnel at all, although Tucson approved such stations in the past which closed due to non-use. Cities do have the power to regulate this issue. Ms. Margraf said she would send more information on oil company contacts, the proposed language of the AZ statute and on laws of other states. Rich Nolan said it would be appropriate for the Commission to formulate a position on this issue and communicate it to the City of Tempe and to oil companies.

Bernadette Croy reported for the Access and Barrier-Free Subcommittee which met on September 5. Monti's was visited, there are only 3 handicapped spaces which are some distance from the entrance. Bee will return to count the total spaces.

Jack Lofgren reported that the Recreational Services Subcommittee has been reconstituted with some new members to better represent stakeholders. The group has formulated a main goal and objectives (see subcommittee minutes of 8/25/99). They plan to survey programs and needs in other cities. Rich Nolan said they will develop a new case for the Certified Therapist position, working with the City Community Services Department. Lee Scofield has been designated the liaison with us.

Future topics and speakers were discussed. Suggestions were as follows: ASU stadium accessibility, by Bee Croy; light rail progress, and the Town Lake accessibility (after it opens), by Kathleen Green; have working sessions on important issues, e.g., Youth Leadership Forum, by Mike Lins; Invite don Price ("Fishing Has No Boundaries" author) to speak; speaker on Epilepsy, by Bee Croy; other disease related advocacy groups, by Kathleen Green; related self-help groups, by Mike Lins; sponsor a disability awareness event, e.g., ask legislators to spend time in wheel chair.

Kathleen Green reported for the Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. The pilot for the Business Leadership Network is underway through a \$10,000 grant from Motorola, the lead employer. There will be an application to United Way for help looking to an official kick-off next Spring. Payson has a very active local committee including a volunteer parking patrol with 17 ticket-writers.

In other issues from Commission members, Karen Walters said Tempe ARC is expanding its board and is looking for new members. She also mentioned the Tempe Parks and Recreation survey now underway on special needs. It was then moved and approved to adjourn the meeting. Future meetings this year will be held at Escalante Center at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

Steve Wise

Date

9/28/99